

Galileo NIMS Thermal Observations of Asteroid 243 Ida and 1993(243)1

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The Galileo Near Infrared Mapping, Spectrometer (NIMS) observed asteroid 243 Ida during a close encounter on August 28, 1993, at a heliocentric distance of 2.95 AU. observations covering one full rotation of the asteroid were made at a variety of spectral and spatial resolutions. The best data were obtained in the HiRes observation 3.7 minutes prior to closest approach at a range of ~3,650 km (in 17 wavelengths between 0.7 and 5.2 μm) at a spatial resolution of about 1.8 km per nimsel (a NIMS pixel), and in the ChemMap observation 7.8 minutes before closest approach at a range of ~6,300 km (in 102 wavelengths between 0.7 and 5.2 μm) at a spatial resolution of 3.2 km per nimsel. Thermal emission from the sunlit hemisphere of Ida was detected at wavelengths longward of 4.0 μm . Analysis of the NIMS data gives surface brightness temperatures between 180 K and 208 K, assuming an emissivity of 0.80. The surface temperatures are interpreted as consistent with a surface thermal inertia of $0.0015 \text{ cal cm}^{-2} \text{ sec}^{-1/2} \text{ K}^{-1}$, indicative of a thick insulating regolith on the asteroid surface. NIMS also discovered a satellite in close proximity to Ida, detected in three observations: HiRes, ChemMap, and Idafin, the latter occurring 16.7 minutes before closest approach at a range of ~12,300 km. Thermal observations of the satellite, 1993(?) 431, will also be reported. This work was supported by NASA through the Galileo Project at JPL.